

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

Meeting Date  
April 21, 2010  
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Debbie Kitelinger, chair  
Mary Deitz  
Sharon Fishel  
Margaret Kavanaugh  
Erin Kinavey  
Amy Simpson

Community Members/Guests:

Geri Benshoof

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:  
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**Approval of the Minutes**

Amy Simpson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the January 13 and March 10<sup>th</sup> meetings. Sharon Fishel **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED** as written.

**Correspondence**

***Input on Parent Rights Booklet***

Teresa Holt stated that they collated all of the comments that people sent in regarding the ILP Parent Rights Booklet. Lisa Balivet will let the EIC know in mid May what the final version of that is for the Committee to review.

***Review of IFSP by Families***

Teresa stated that she is waiting for Lisa to send her the IFSP form, but the versions she has seen so far appear to be very parent friendly.

Amy Simpson stated that she tested the form on a couple of families, and it was a very meaningful process. She stated that the form is very strengths-based and has very functional goal writing. Amy noted that she was on the committee that developed the form, and the goal was to have more consistency on how IFSPs were done and processed. Teresa added that the family picture on the front of it is a nice touch.

Teresa also noted that although the form is long, the only parts that are completed are those that are relevant to the child at the time. Amy added that the form is more of a journey through the child's life than it is a document. It includes the intake, initial eligibility determination, goal writing, and family assessment. She stated that it is a great way to have a conversation with a family about their child and their family needs. When the family leaves ILP, the whole document can be printed out for them, and it becomes a chronology of their time in Infant Learning. It shows the child's progress through the years. Amy stated that once OSEP approves it, they will be able to use the document.

## ***TACSEI Training***

Teresa stated that they were the first group in the nation to have a presentation about how to implement the Pyramid Model for Infants and Toddlers. She felt that it was not quite as well organized as she expected. Debbie Kitelinger agreed.

Debbie added that she learned from the presentation that the ILP providers could use more training on mandatory reporting.

## **Review of Indicator 9**

Erin Kinavey stated that indicator 9, general supervision, looks at how the whole system is supervised in terms of correction and compliance from the previous year. She stated that the indicator is asking that if a program isn't in compliance, is the system able to bring that program back into compliance in a timely manner, which is defined by OSEP as 12 months. Erin further stated that OSEP has defined compliance as hitting at least 100 percent at one point during the 12 months following the non-compliance. She noted that general supervision looks across all of the indicators, which is why it's a very complicated indicator.

Teresa stated that there were 53 findings of non-compliance in FY 2007, and 41 of those non-compliances were corrected within 12 months. Teresa also noted that all of this happened before the new online monitoring system. Erin added that in next year's APR, there will be a very different percentage there because they are now much faster to put the plan in place and are seeing more timely corrections. Erin stated that they have moved forward a lot since 2007.

Erin Kinavey stated that there are many reasons that an agency wouldn't be able to come up to compliance within a year, and none of them are valid to OSEP, but they are a reality. She stated the issues can be weather and therapist shortages. Erin also explained that for a child who is out of compliance who moves to another state, they become the responsibility of the receiving state.

Mary Deitz asked if there was a waiver for weather issues. Erin responded by stating that this past year, OSEP asked them to collect data on cancellations due to weather, but they didn't go so far as to allow them to

adjust them out. She is hoping that next year after the data has been gathered, they will allow them to adjust those out as valid reasons.

Sharon Fishel asked that Erin Kinavey contact her if they are able to get OSEP to consider weather-related adjustments. Sharon also noted that she will contact Erin if she gets anywhere on it with them as well.

Erin stated that to assist getting a program back into compliance, they do a variety of things to provide assistance. With the new database, it has been a lot easier to help support the agencies in a timely manner.

### **Review of Indicator 14**

Erin Kinavey explained that this indicator deals with making sure they have met their due dates with reporting and that the data is accurate in terms of what the program is doing.

Teresa stated that they received a 95.6 percent, and the target was 100 percent. Erin explained that it was an issue with the center that reviews the accuracy of their data that caused the drop in the percentage.

### **Review Work Plan and Recommend Priorities**

#### ***Workforce Development***

Teresa Holt explained that this goal had been on hold until they heard more about the Governor's Performance Scholarship. She stated that the Governor's Performance Scholarship has passed, but it doesn't have funding attached to it. She stated that part of what passed was a group that would study how to fund it. She noted that there is still a chance that this will die.

Teresa stated that one idea would be to use the Governor's Performance Scholarship and figure out ways to recruit kids to go into programs and develop programs in Alaska that can serve early childhood programs.

Mary Deitz suggested that part of the work on the long-term goal can be started now to help make decisions in the future. Mary also volunteered to partner with the EIC on gathering information because she works for the Department of Labor, Division of Business Partnerships, and they may

have already collected relevant data.

Geri Benshoof stated that UAF is starting a program to certify special education teachers. They have to have a teaching certificate and a bachelor's degree, and they can get certified in special ed with 30 credits. They can also get the same thing plus a master's degree for 36 credits. She stated that another exciting part of this proposal is that they are going to readily exchange credits with UAA and the University of Alaska, Juneau where they have an early childhood program.

Sharon Fishel stated that there is not a four-year bachelor's program for special education in the state of Alaska. She stated that she has been talking with Art, Erin and Meghan about a way to work with the university system to establish a four-year special ed program.

Teresa Holt suggested keeping the workforce goal, but change how it looks.

***Change the Eligibility Determination for ILP Services in Alaska – Advocate for changes that would allow ILP to bill private insurance (goal 2) and Medicaid (goal 3)***

Teresa stated that Erin Kinavey has done a lot of work on goals two and three. Erin stated that this is moving along, and it will work its way around the Department in the next few months. After that process has been finished, they would like the EIC's input on it.

***Pre-School Survey***

Teresa stated that the survey is done and referred the Committee members to the PowerPoint attachment she sent them. Teresa stated that the purpose of the survey was to ask districts how they serve pre-school students, create a list of contacts for pre-school teachers, and set up a listserv. She stated that they got responses to the survey from all over the state, and they were able to count 90 of the 106 responses they received.

Teresa stated that it appears that most of the children are served either in pre-school classes at a school or in a Head Start program. She stated that the results also show that that about a third of the children in pre-school sites are children with disabilities.

Teresa also added that another purpose of the survey was to see where kids were being served, because that is not data that the State collects. Sharon Fishel commented that it also feeds into the Department's indicator 6.

Teresa stated that the listserv has been created, but they haven't sent out the invitation to join. The first thing they will send out on the listserv is the results of the survey. They will also post the survey results on the AKSPED listserv, send it out through the Anchorage School District newsletter, Stone Soup Group will send it out on their lists, and it will be sent to the ILP coordinators. This new listserv will be the ECSPED listserv. It will also be a vehicle to get information about trainings out to people.

### ***Early Childhood Networking Forum***

Sharon Fishel stated that the Early Childhood Networking Forum is going to be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton. If anyone is interested in attending, they can contact Vanessa George at [vanessa.george@alaska.gov](mailto:vanessa.george@alaska.gov). Teresa will also e-mail people the registration form she has in pdf format.

### ***Review of Completed Work Plan Items***

Debbie Kitelinger stated that the following items have been completed:

- Early Childhood Networking Forum
- Pre-school survey

### ***Recommended Priorities***

#### ICC Duties

Debbie Kitelinger stated that goal 6, ICC duties, is an ongoing priority.

#### Workforce Development

Amy Simpson stated that they should continue to pursue the workforce development piece to build the capacity for what they need to provide services for children and families. She further stated that 60 to 75 percent

of children in Alaska are being referred to ILP for speech/language delays, and she thinks they should try more vigorously to get a program in the state for speech/language pathology or figure out a way to recruit kids to go into that field. She stated that she would love to see an undergraduate speech/language program in the state. Erin Kinavey agreed.

Geri Benshoof stated that with the new SPED program at UAF, she could talk to Joanne Healy and see what the possibilities are for expanding the program at UAF.

Erin Kinavey stated that they are using their training funds to provide tuition assistance to students going through early childhood/special ed and early childhood/speech/language programs. She stated that she and Meghan met with the speech pathology program coordinator in Anchorage, and she expressed some frustration that they didn't have a bachelor's program and that students have to spend so much time leveling.

Amy Simpson stated that if they want to have a huge impact and get a program within the state that kids could go to and get their degree in a streamlined fashion, their speech/language pathology shortages would be null and void.

Debbie Kitelinger suggested putting this into the work plan, because although the loan forgiveness idea is good, it doesn't make much sense if there isn't a place to go to school.

#### Change in Eligibility Determination

Erin Kinavey stated that AILPA is starting to do some work on this issue. She also noted that Key Campaign did a lot of educating during their legislative visits this last session, and they received a lot of positive responses. Les Gara's office has requested more information. Erin stated that she thinks this should be a priority for both the EIC and the Council as a whole. She also stated that over the next six months, she will be looking at getting this into the Department's budget.

Amy Simpson stated that she also discussed the eligibility determination with legislators, and they were very excited about her promise to have data to support how much it costs for these services versus how much it costs not to provide the services. Erin Kinavey stated that Bob Sloper has been

working for about 18 month on finalizing the cost study. Erin stated that the Council can review this data and can do a push to the legislature, similar to what they did a couple of years ago.

Erin stated that they will have the draft of the cost study done in June or July. She also stated that part of the funding formula of the eligibility shift from 50 to 25 percent is a new billing structure that involved working with the Office of Medicaid to expand their billing. Erin stated that it will expand the funding base by two to three million dollars. As soon as she gets approval from the commissioner, she will share that information about Medicaid with the EIC.

Teresa Holt will put the priorities into a draft form and will e-mail them to the Committee members for comments.

### **Report from OCS/ILP**

Erin Kinavey did not have anything additional to report on at this time.

### **Report from AILPA**

Amy Simpson stated that she approached the AILPA members about the EIC looking for additional ILP representation on the Committee. Amy stated that the AILPA members asked if Amy could step aside as the AILPA representative on the Committee because she is already a member of the Council, and have a new AILPA representative put in her place.

Debbie Kitelinger stated that what they are looking for is more input from ILP providers whether they are AILPA members or not. She stated that it doesn't really matter if Amy steps down or not, they would just like more input.

### **Report from DEED**

Sharon Fishel did not have anything additional to add at this time.

### **Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

Teresa Holt stated that if anyone would like to attend any conferences or trainings, the time to put in for travel is coming up by the end of May. If



there is another conference people would like to attend, they should let her and/or Debbie know. Debbie added that the Zero to 3 Conference seems like something they want to consider, and it will not conflict with OSEP this year.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the EIC will be on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Debbie Kitelinger stated that they can discuss the dates and location at the next teleconference after they get some information on what dates Sharon Fishel will be able to attend. Debbie asked the Committee members to send her and Teresa an e-mail to let them know what dates would work best for them and then they can proceed from there.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.